

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3141

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to improve the monitoring of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 7, 2016

Mr. ROUNDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to improve the monitoring of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protection and Advo-

5 cacy for Veterans Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE**
2 **MONITORING OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUB-**
3 **STANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS OF**
4 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Commencing not later than
6 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a grant pro-
8 gram to improve the monitoring of mental health and sub-
9 stance abuse treatment programs of the Department of
10 Veterans Affairs.

11 (b) **GRANTS.**—

12 (1) **MAIN GRANT.**—

13 (A) **AWARD.**—In carrying out subsection
14 (a), the Secretary shall award grants to four
15 protection and advocacy systems under which
16 each protection and advocacy system shall carry
17 out a demonstration project to investigate and
18 monitor the care and treatment of veterans pro-
19 vided under chapter 17 of title 38, United
20 States Code, for mental illness or substance
21 abuse issues at medical facilities of the Depart-
22 ment.

23 (B) **MINIMUM AMOUNT.**—Each grant
24 awarded under subparagraph (A) to a protec-
25 tion and advocacy system shall be in an amount
26 that is not less than \$105,000 for each year

1 that the protection and advocacy system carries
2 out a demonstration project described in such
3 subparagraph under the grant program.

4 (2) COLLABORATION GRANT.—

5 (A) AWARD.—During each year in which a
6 protection and advocacy system carries out a
7 demonstration project under paragraph (1)(A),
8 the Secretary shall award a joint grant to a na-
9 tional organization with extensive knowledge of
10 the protection and advocacy system and a vet-
11 erans service organization in the amount of
12 \$80,000.

13 (B) COLLABORATION.—Each national or-
14 ganization and veterans service organization
15 that is awarded a joint grant under subpara-
16 graph (A) shall use the amount of the grant to
17 facilitate the collaboration between the national
18 organization and the veterans service organiza-
19 tion to—

20 (i) coordinate training and technical
21 assistance for the protection and advocacy
22 systems awarded grants under paragraph
23 (1)(A); and

1 (ii) provide for data collection, report-
2 ing, and analysis in carrying out such
3 paragraph.

11 (c) SELECTION.—In selecting the four protection and
12 advocacy systems to receive grants under subsection
13 (b)(1)(A), the Secretary shall consider the following cri-
14 teria:

(A) has low aggregated scores in the domains of mental health, performance, and access as rated by the Strategic Analytics Improvement and Learning database system (commonly referred to as “SAIL”); and

(B) to the extent practicable, is representative of both urban and rural States.

3 (d) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that each
4 protection and advocacy system participating in the grant
5 program submits to the Secretary reports developed by the
6 protection and advocacy system relating to investigations
7 or monitoring conducted pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A).
8 The Secretary shall designate an office of the Department
9 of Veterans Affairs to receive each such report.

10 (e) DURATION; TERMINATION.—

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
3 out the grant program under subsection (a) \$500,000 for
4 each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) The term “protection and advocacy system”
7 has the meaning given the term “eligible system” in
8 section 102(2) of the Protection and Advocacy for
9 Individuals with Mental Illness Act (42 U.S.C.
10 10802(2)).

11 (2) The term “State” means each of the several
12 States, territories, and possessions of the United
13 States, the District of Columbia, and the Common-
14 wealth of Puerto Rico.

15 (3) The term “veterans service organization”
16 means any organization recognized by the Secretary
17 for the representation of veterans under section
18 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

